accounts in short term deposits for 46 days in accordance with the instructions provided by this Ministry. Detailed guidelines are under finalisation and shall be published in the scheme for establishing and maintaining the Environment Relief Fund.

(b) and (c) The news report has highlighted the following issues:

(i) stagnation of Rs. 25 crores of Environment Relief Fund with insurance companies in absence of guidelines;

(ii) absence of instructions for investing the fund; and

(iii) non-compliance by Public Sector Units.

Regarding issues (i) & (ii) according to the available statistics, so far the contribution forwards ERF is Rs. 18 crore. The money is being reinvested regularly in short-term deposits and has earned a sum of Rs. 2.11 crores as interest. Detailed modalities to reinvest the fund have been incorporated in the scheme, under preparation, for establishment of ERF.

(iiv) So far, except for one case, none of the Public Sector Units have sought exemption under the Act. A few Public Sector Units have already taken out an insurance policy. Necessary instructions to the State Governments, who have been delegated with powers to give appropriate directions, have been issued to ensure compliance by Public Sector Units.

(d) The use of the Environment Relief Fund is restricted for meeting any claims beyond the liability of the insurer under the Public Liability Insurance Act, and cannot be diverted to development purposes.

Catering/Vending etc. Stalls at Railway Stations

1539. SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the contractors holding the catering/vending, book stalls, miscellaneous Article Stalls and fresh juice stalls in Northern Railway (Station and division-wise);

(b) the dates of allotment and execution of the agreements in each case as mentioned in part (a) above;

(c) the details with names of the contractors whose period of agreement expired and not renewed within the stipulated period in each division of Northern Railway; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Fruit Plants on forest land

1540. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government envisage the idea of growing fruit-plants on the forest land which is not only helpful in fruit production but also eco-friendly;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether such forest land would be given on lease, if required?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (c) The principal aim of the national Forest Policy 1988 is to ensure environmental stability and maintenance of ecological balance through afforestation. Accordingly, such suitable fruit trees as would fit in with the overall scheme of afforestation may be planted on forest lands. It is not, however, proposed to lease forest lands for horticultural purposes.

Projects under implementation in Paradip Port

1541. SHRI SANATAN BISI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) what are the important Projects under implementation in Paradip Port (Orissa); and

(b) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) The